

The Old Paths

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." -Jeremiah 6:16

Free of Charge! Make Copies.

P.O. Box 8781, Victoria, Canada, V8W 3S3.

www.sermonindex.net

Preaching With Tears!

Preaching with tears is the mark of true gospel preaching. Not just the tears themselves bear witness to the truth but are a outward manifestation of the ...

Page 1

The Baptism Of The Holy Ghost



The Baptism of the...
Page 2

Luther, Bunyan, Bible and Pain

From 1660 to 1672, John Bunyan, the English Baptist preacher, and author of Pilgrim's Progress was in the Bedford ...

Page 3

Grumbling and Complaining



The nation of Israel...
Page 4

Why Revival Tarries

There has been a deep burden created by God on my heart and mind for some time, as to God's perspective about the day in which we live...

Page 5

Stirring Quotes



Be challenged and changed by these stirring quotes
Page 6

Preaching With Tears!



Preaching with tears is the mark of true gospel preaching. Not just the tears themselves bear witness to the truth but are a outward manifestation of the greatness and loftiness of the gospel that actually saves a sinner from their sins. Catherine Booth gives us her estimation of preaching that was worthless in her day. It was a preaching that did not save from sin, did not offer the sinner much except a theoretical pardon from their guilt complex: "The main idea of much of the preaching of this day seems to be that of teaching people, instructing them, which too often results in hardening their hearts, and finding them an easier way down to perdition than they would have found without it. Unfortunately a man feels more comfortable when

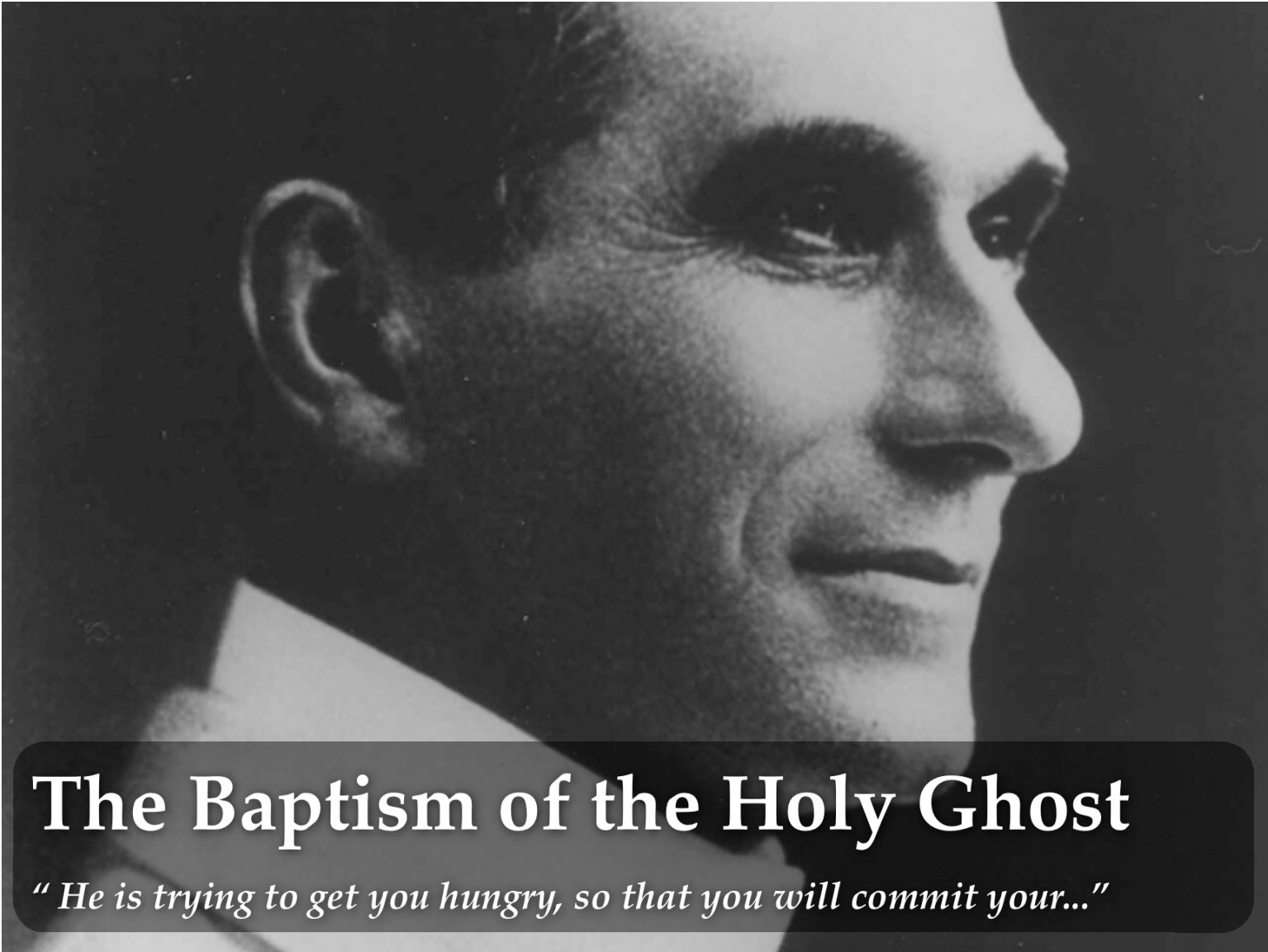
he has been to a place of worship and heard a fine theory about salvation, then he would if he had not been, although he may be no nearer being saved. All preaching or any other instrumentality which has not for its end the immediate salvation of the people, only leads them to trust in mere teaching, which is a mockery. You can see the want of it in the way they fail to bring men to Christ. How my heart has ached over this aimless, pointless preaching, I could not express."

Preaching that is not impassioned with the goal of bringing people to the living God who can break the fetters of sin is then in turn pointless preaching. Catherine Booth relates this story showing forth an example of not mere doctrinal preaching but showing the power of God and effectual working of God's Word: "Would to God there were more preaching in the fix of a Baptist minister in a town where we are just now having a glorious work, who has been so stirred up and awakened to his responsibilities, that, on a recent occasion when he had read his text, he broke down, weeping, which had more effect than all the sermons he had preached during the years he had been in that town. His people wept too, and many of them got converted over again. I wish that a few thousands of the ministers of this kingdom could be brought to a similar state of mind before next Sunday; what a commotion there would be in the land, and what a stir in hell, ah, and in heaven too!"

The saintly Edward Griffin who was used of God in the second great awakening and gives us a ex-

ample of bringing people to a Christ who is a saviour of sin. The church historian David Smithers gives us this word picture: "A hearer of Mr. Griffin in New Jersey in 1829 gives us a description of his preaching and of the love and brokenness which gave that preaching its power. "During most of the sermon his face was wet with tears, and for nearly an hour he spoke to us with such tender and appealing sentences that it seemed as if his hearers must cry out in an agony of fear and trembling. But what a climax the ending was! It was a wonder how he endured the strain so long and that he had not given up physically exhausted. The mental agony, the heartbreaking sympathy, were enough to break an angel down! When he fell on his knees as if he had been knocked on the head with an ax, with outstretched arms, tears coarsing down his face, he cried out; 'Oh! my dying fellow sinners, I beseech you to give your heart to the Savior now. Give your life to Jesus Christ, do not put it off! Do not leave this house without dedicating yourself to His service, lest you be left at last to cry, the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and I am not saved.'"

Greg Gordon - Currently attending Calvary Chapel Bible College in Canada. Founded the ministry of SermonIndex.net and has continued to run it for the last 4 years to date. "



The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

"He is trying to get you hungry, so that you will commit your..."

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost was of such importance in the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ that He commanded His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem "until ye be endued with power from on high" Brother, Sister, when we stand before the bar of God and are asked why we have not fulfilled in our life all the mind of Christ and all His desire in the salvation of the world, how will be our excuses if they are weighed against the salvation of imperishable souls. How terrible it will be for us to say we neglected, we put off, we failed to seek for the endowment that cometh from on high, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

May we say that it was only after the Lord had baptized us in the Holy Ghost that we really learned how to pray. When He prayed through us, when the soul cries born of the Holy Ghost rolled out of your being and up to the throne of God, the answer came back—His prayer, His heart yearning, His cry. May God put it in every heart that we may indeed see the answer to our Lord's prayer, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven"

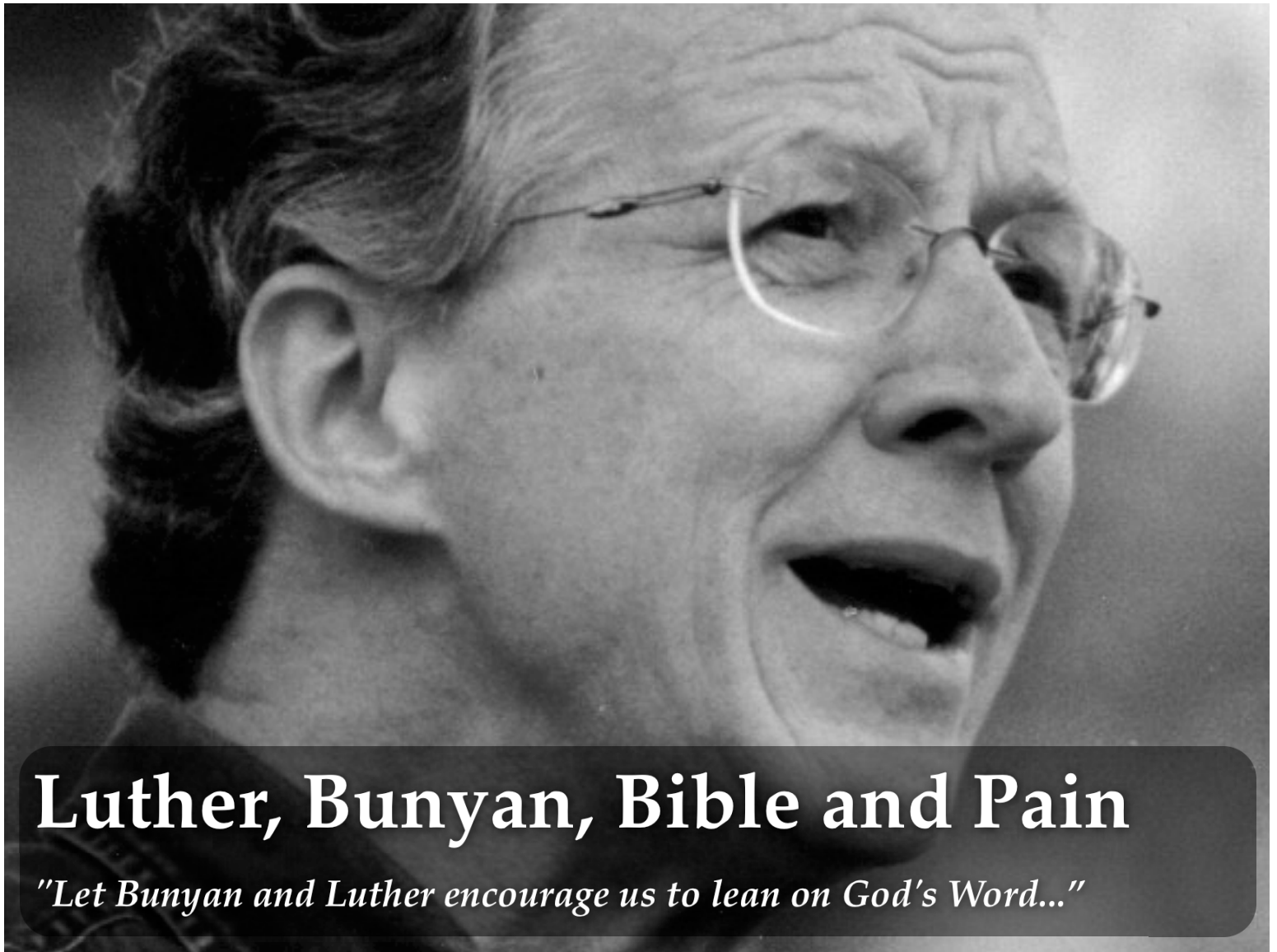
You dear folks listen who are trying to pump up a Pentecost that has worn out years ago. God let it die. God had only one way under heaven to get you to move up into God, and that way is to let you become dissatisfied with the thing you have. And if you have not the consciousness you once had, God Almighty understands the situation. He is trying to get you hungry, so that you will commit your body and your soul and your spirit to God forever, and by the grace of God you will be baptized in the Holy Ghost over again, at the throne of God-consciousness, in the power of Jesus Christ, as Jesus is today. `As he is, so are we in this world"

Beloved, God is calling men and women to a holier consecration, to a higher place in God, and I am one of God's candidates for that holy place in God. I want to get to the throne of God. Oh, Yes, God baptized me in the Holy Ghost with a wondrous baptism, according the understanding I possessed ten or fifteen years ago. But I am a candidate today for a new baptism in the Holy Ghost that comes out of the heart of the GLORIFIED Christ, in the lightnings of God; everlasting overcoming on the throne with

Jesus. And that is the experience that is going to make the sons of God in the world. That is the reason they will take the world for Jesus Christ, and the Kingdom will be established, and they will put the crown on the Son of God, and declare Him "King of kings and Lord of lords" [Revelation 19:16] forever. Amen

Therefore, fear not, for God is able to perform in you even that which He performed in Jesus, and raise you likewise in union with Christ Jesus, and make you reign in dominion over sin, instead of being dominated by the powers of evil and darkness.

John G. Lake (1870-1935) - Was a evangelist used by God to hear over 10, 0000 people in his lifetime. Was used of God in a local missionary revival in South Africa in 1908.



Luther, Bunyan, Bible and Pain

"Let Bunyan and Luther encourage us to lean on God's Word..."

From 1660 to 1672, John Bunyan, the English Baptist preacher, and author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, was in the Bedford county jail. He could have been released if he had agreed not to preach. "The parting with my Wife and poor children hath often been to me in this place as the pulling of the Flesh from my bones not only because I am somewhat too fond of these great Mercies, but also because I often brought to my mind the many hardships, miseries and wants that my poor Family was like to meet with should I be taken from them."

But this broken Bunyan was seeing treasures in the Word of God because of this suffering that he would probably not have seen any other way. He was discovering the meaning of Psalm 119:71, "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes." "I never had in all my life so great an inlet into the Word of God as now [in prison]. The Scriptures that I saw nothing in before are made in this place to shine upon me. Jesus Christ also was never more real and apparent than now. Here I have seen him and felt him indeed I have seen [such things]

here that I am persuaded I shall never while in this world be able to express. Being very tender of me, [God] hath not suffered me to be molested, but would with one scripture and another strengthen me against all; insomuch that I have often said, were it lawful I could pray for greater trouble for the greater comfort's sake." In other words, one of God's gifts to us in suffering is that we are granted to see and experience depths of his Word that a life of ease would never yield.

Martin Luther had discovered the same "method" of seeing God in his Word. He said there are three rules for understanding Scripture: praying, meditating and suffering trials. The "trials," he said, are supremely valuable: they "teach you not only to know and understand but also to experience how right, how true, how sweet, how lovely, how mighty, how comforting God's word is: it is wisdom supreme." Therefore the devil himself becomes the unwitting teacher of God's word: "the devil will afflict you [and] will make a real doctor of you, and will teach you by his temptations to

seek and to love God's Word. For I myself owe my papists many thanks for so beating, pressing, and frightening me through the devil's raging that they have turned me into a fairly good theologian, driving me to a goal I should never have reached"

I testify from my small experience that this is true. Disappointment, loss, sickness and fear send me deeper into God and his Word than ever. Clouds of trifling are blown away and the glory of unseen things shines in the heart's eye. Let Bunyan and Luther encourage us to lean on God's Word as never before in times of affliction. Trembling to learn of God with you.

John Piper - Founder of Desiring God Ministries that you can visit on the web at: www.desiringgod.org. Piper's passion is to spread the supremacy of God in the world.



Grumbling and Complaining

"people don't think it's a sin at all! I'm talking about grumbling..."

"Now the people became like those who complain about adversity in the hearing of the Lord; and when the Lord heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp." (Num. 11:1-2)

Grumbling and complaining is one thing we don't get too concerned about these days. I mean everybody grumbles about something, right? Husbands and wives complain about each other. Kids tell each other how terrible their folks are. Christians grumble about one another - even about their leaders!

The nation of Israel had a long history of grumbling and complaining. You can read about the misery it brought them in the first five books of the Old Testament. I have to confess, for a long time I didn't like those five books because I thought they were full of The Law. God's wrath could be pretty terrible. Sometimes He sent plagues or fire from heaven. In Numbers 16, you read about the "rebellion of Korah" when the ground opened up and 250 people who complained against Moses and the Lord were swallowed alive. That's heavy!

Now the New Testament - that seemed easy in comparison! We were given a new law to keep. The law of love and liberty. As a new Christian, I heard nothing but "love, grace, forgiveness, and mercy" which was great because without them I'd be dead as a doornail! Yet I kept running across scriptures in the New Testament that really turned my head around. Jesus also made some strong statements about obeying the laws of God.

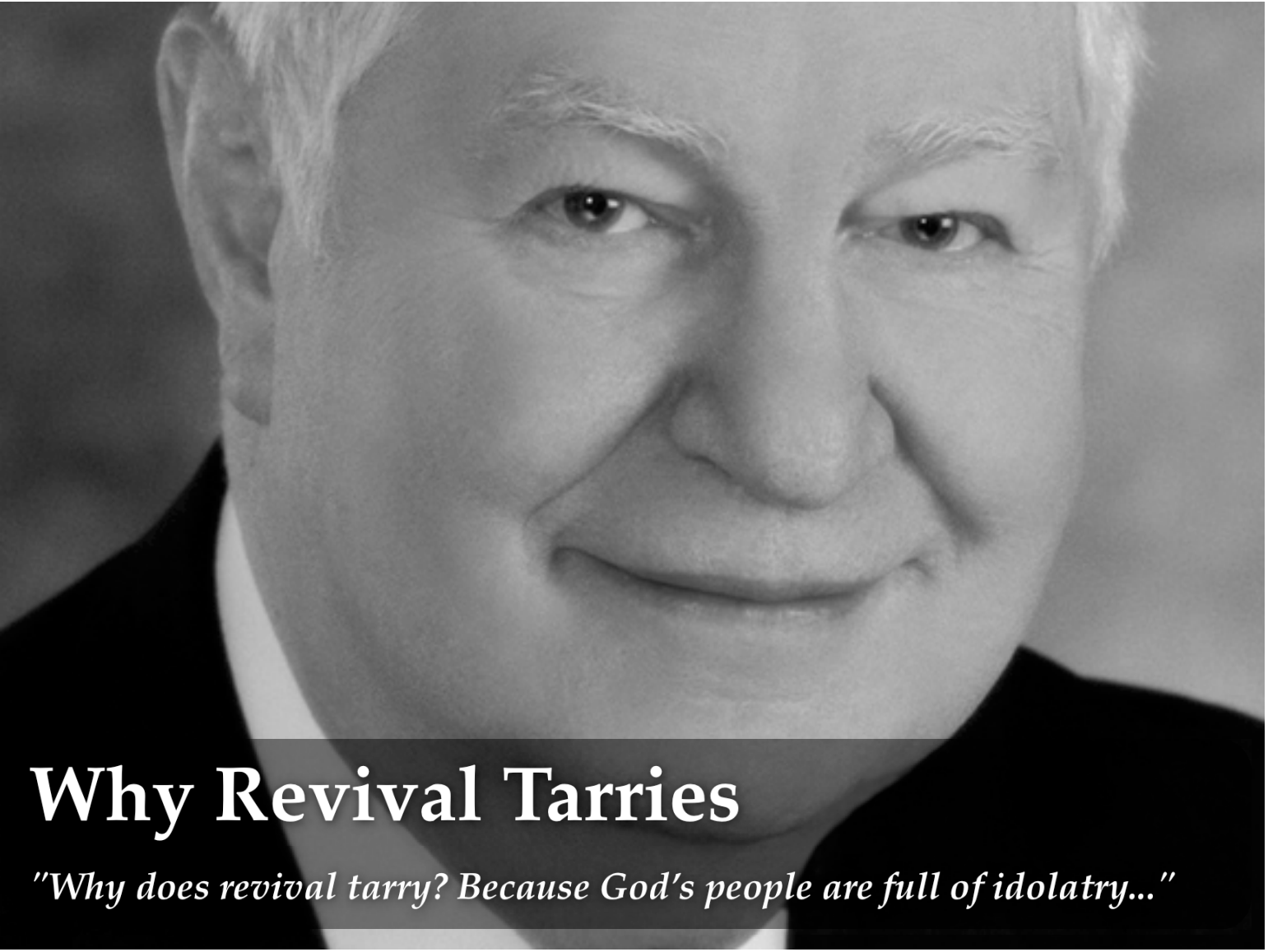
In Matthew, Jesus rebuked the people of three cities where He'd taught and performed many miracles. He wasn't exactly trying to win a popularity contest when He said: "Woe to you... For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes... (And) if the miracles had occurred in Sodom that occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. Nevertheless, I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you." (Matthew 11:21-24) In other words, "If I don't judge you in light of all you know, I'm going to have to apolo-

gize to Sodom and Gomorrah!"

I want to make this point strongly: Once God has led us out of our old sinful lives by His Spirit, we must be careful not to return.

I found an important warning sign while reading Old Testament books like Numbers. This signal can tell you if you're headed backwards where you're no longer led and controlled by the Holy Spirit. No longer walking forward with God. It seems like a little "insignificant" sin. In fact, some people don't think it's a sin at all! I'm talking about grumbling and complaining.

Keith Green (1953-1982). Famous gospel singer used by God in teaching and preaching also. He was mentored by the late Leonard Ravenhill for many years.



Why Revival Tarrys

"Why does revival tarry? Because God's people are full of idolatry..."

There has been a deep burden created by God on my heart and mind for some time, as to God's perspective about the day in which we live. What does He say? How does He look on things? For the last ten months I've been asking God some things, observing some things, watching the Holy Spirit bring to my remembrance some things, watching Him teach me some things, and bringing it all to a point of reference that is very painful.

I have been watching with a great deal of interest and participating myself with millions who say they are praying for revival. I've seen many ministries that have arisen to enlist people to pray for revival. And yet revival tarrys. What grieves me as much as anything is, I hardly ever hear any religious leader asking the question, "Why does revival tarry?"

If you are praying for revival, you are praying that God will return in all of His fullness to the people of God. Do you want to know what it looks like? It looks like Acts 2 and following: "And fear came upon everybody." To be in the presence of the fullness of God is a radical experience, and it is not a

pleasant one. J. Edwin Orr, that godly man of revival, in his last sermon preached at Ridgecrest before he died, said: "Revival is like judgment day." Is that the way we describe it? If I would use the first part of that sentence and say, "Revival is like..." many of us would say, "praise and thanksgiving and joy and salvation!"

But Dr. Orr was right. Revival is what God does when He comes in utter judgment on His people. Because as goes the people of God, so goes the redemption of the rest of the world. If God can't get our attention, then His whole purpose and plan to redeem a world comes to a halt. Where He does get our attention there is no limit to what He can do next.

Why does revival tarry? Because God's people are full of idolatry. We're shaping God into the God we want Him to be, and if there was any mention of repentance, some dear soul will pray under her breath, "O God, I pray that if there is some lost soul here who needs to repent..." God is saying, "It's you, sister. You need to repent." But God's people

are not facing the incredible need for us to repent.

And so revival tarrys. The heart of God is broken that we have forsaken Him. We've run after everything under the sun except Him. We don't pray like He told us to, so in that sense we have forsaken Him. We don't trust Him. We trust our money and other things, but we don't trust Him, so we have forsaken Him.

And yet we cry out, "O Lord, bring revival!" God could say, "Why should I? There is nothing in you which matches what I require to come to My people in great presence."

Henry Blackaby - Is the founder of Blackaby Ministries that you visit the site here: www.henryblackaby.com. His desire is to see a heaven-sent revival in our generation.

C.H. Spurgeon



"Brethren, there is nothing in the gospel, apart from the Spirit of God, which can save a man, for man hates the gospel with all his heart!"

"Aspire to be something more than the mass of church members. Lift up your cry to God and beseech him to fire you with a nobler ambition than that which possesses the common Christian—that you may be found faithful unto God at the last, and may win many crowns for your Lord and Master, Christ."

"I have nothing to say against recreation in its proper place. Certain forms of recreation are needful and useful; but it is a wretched thing when amusement becomes a vocation. Amusement should be used to do us good "like a medicine": it must never be used as the food of the man. Pleasure so called is the murderer of thought. This is the age of excessive amusement: everybody craves for it, like a babe for its rattle."

"We cannot be certain that a thing is right because it is old, for Satan is old, and sin is old, and death is old, and hell is old; yet none of these things are right and desirable on that account."

J. Vernon McGee



"The story is told of Dwight L. Moody concerning his coming home one night after a meeting. His family asked him how many converts he had that night, and he said, 'Two and a half.' His family said, 'Oh, you had two adults and one child who accepted the Lord as Savior.' Moody replied, 'No, no, two children and one adult accepted the Lord.' He continued, 'The adult was an old man and he had only half a life to give. He was just half of a convert.'"

"Thus spiritual death comes immediately through an unbroken line of posterity. Over against this, physical death is received from Adam immediately, as each person dies in body because of his own personal share in Adam's first sin."

"So-called Christian psychology is secular psychology clothed in pious platitudes and religious rhetoric."

"Of Jesus on the Cross: I owed a debt I couldn't pay He paid a debt He didn't owe."

"God's Word is as good as He is. There is an old saying that a man is as good as his word. Well, God is as good as His Word. His character is behind what He has said."

Fenelon



"Discouragement is simply the despair of wounded self-love."

"You really don't even own the present moment, for even this belongs to God."

"Of all the duties enjoined by Christianity none is more essential and yet more neglected than prayer."

"Content yourself with leading a simple life according to your circumstances. For the rest, obey the Lord and bear your little daily crosses. You need them, and God gives them to you only out of pur mercy. The great thing is to make light of yourself sincerely, and to consent to be made light of by others if God permits it. Nourish yourself with him alone. St. Augustine says that his mother lived only by prayer. We also are to live by prayer and die to all the rest. We can live to God only by a continual death to self."

"God often allows us to be tested as one is tested by a stormy sea. God stirs up the sea, and makes its great billows seem to threaten destruction. But He is always at hand to say, 'Thus far shalt thou go and no farther.'"

Leonard Ravenhill



"You think Christ died for this carnal institution we call 'the church' today? not on your life."

"I've got God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and two-thirds of the angels on my side. What do you want me to do? Sit down and cry?"

"I think it is a danger of seeking revival to justify my ministry, to prove 'we are the best people in the town'. What is it say in Malachi 'the Lord, whom ye seek'. We are not seeking HIM, we are seeking revival, we are seeking healings, we are seeking miracles. It's not that we need! If we get God, we get all that's need it!"

"Any method of evangelism will work, if God is in it."

"A diploma won't give you unction, a degree won't give you unction, you can't buy it. you buy it with grief! you buy it with your bankruptcy!"

"What we need now is a revival of holiness. A revival of character. A revival of people who are utterly selfless and prepared to lay their lives on the altar for God."

"A popular evangelist reaches your emotions. A true prophet reaches your conscience."

Vance Havner



"It is one of the ironies of the ministry that the very man who works in God's name is often hardest put to find time for God. The parents of Jesus lost Him at church, and they were not the last ones to lose Him there."

"If they had a social gospel in the days of the prodigal son, somebody would have given him a bed and a sandwich and he never would have gone home."

"The church is so subnormal that if it ever got back to the New Testament normal it would seem to people to be abnormal."

"Doing leads more surely to talking than talking to doing."

"Jesus Christ demands more complete allegiance than any dictator who ever lived. The difference is, He has a right to it."

"This is our real 'Program': faith in Christ, fellowship with Christ, faithfulness to Christ, fruitfulness for Christ."

"We are always making an offering. If we do not give to God, we give to the devil. It is a continuous process going on all the time."

"Will it not awaken us to compassion, to look on a languishing man, and to think that within a few days his soul will be in heaven or in hell? Surely it will try the faith and seriousness of ministers, to be much about dying men! They will thus have opportunity to discern whether they themselves are in good earnest about the matters of the life to come." - Richard Baxter